City of Manchester, NH
Heritage Commission
3/28/2017

Chairman Michael Farley gaveled the meeting to order at 6:00, and as the first order of business, asked for a roll call. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Kevin McCue, Michael Duffy, Victoria Sullivan, Ray Clement and Aurore Eaton. Commissioners Pat Howard and Matt Vlangas were excused. Alderman Pat Long was absent. Also present was Planning and Community Development representative Jonathan Golden.

He moved on to the next item, which, he said was a Regulatory review of a building permit application in the Amoskeag Corporation Housing Historic District: The owner of 87-91 Middle Street , Tax Map 152, Lot 15 (Ryan Fontaine for 87 Middle Street LLC) seeks approval for the replacement of the covered porch siding, new vinyl windows, and exterior door. Jonathan distributed copies of the application, with photos. He described the present condition of the building, and the proposed improvements. There followed a discussion of the project, including the history of the addition to the building, the goals of the commission and requirements for approval. The chairman advised the applicant of the established standard for replacement windows and other materials, and referred to the published standards for rehabilitation in the historic district. A public hearing was opened at 6:40, and closed with no comment, at 6:41. The discussion continued, and the commissioners thought it appropriate to treat this proposal in the same way a new addition might be considered. Several augmentations to the design were suggested by the commissioners. Commissioner Eaton expressed the goal of consistency of design in the district in suggesting 6/6 windows, even in an addition. Commissioner McCue made a motion to approve the application, with the requirement that the windows be 6/6 as in the rest of the building, and at the same elevation as in the main building, and the suggestion of adding 2 additional windows on the second floor. Commissioners Ray Clement and Aurore Eaton were given full member voting status to fill the positions open from excused Commissioners Pat Howard and Matt Vlangas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan, and approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Section 106 Review: The owner of the Ash Street School House at 196 Bridge Street, Tax Map 3, Lot11 (SOGGU, LLC) seeks comment on the proposed telecommunications equipment within the clock tower and above the existing equipment room. After a review of the Section 106 process, the proposal was presented by Adam Sullivan of T Mobile, and Joe Sullivan, the real estate consultant on the project. Commissioner Sullivan assured the assembly that there was no relation. The project was described as an addition to a previously approved project. The chairman warned of the constant additional requirements of some high-tech applications, and requested constant vigilance on the part of the commission, in the protection of historic resources. A public hearing was opened at 7:10, and closed at 7:11 with no comment. A motion to send a letter to the NH Division of Historic Resources, finding no adverse impact on the historic character of the building. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duffy, and approved unanimously. Next was to be a review of the redrafted document for the proposed Historically and Culturally Significant Structures Preservation and Protection Ordinance. The Chairman asked the indulgence of the commissioners, and asked that the discussion be postponed until he was more thoroughly prepared.

The next item was an update on the project to restore the statue of General Pulaski in Pulaski Park. Commissioner Eaton gave a presentation on the history of the monument and its

sculptor, Lucien Gosselin who was a Manchester native. This monument is popular among the members of the French-Canadian community, as well as Polish-Americans and history buffs. She stated that this equestrian statue was one of very high quality, and one of the last of its type in the U.S., due to changing tastes. She reported on several condition issues identified by the contractor. The committee consulted Josh Craine of Daedalus, Watertown Massachusetts, a well-known restorer of monuments and statues, including that of General John Stark in Stark Park in Manchester. They are currently working on a budget for the project, and continue to seek a contractor to remove the lead paint on the fence surrounding the statue, and repaint it with something durable and cost-effective. Their plan includes community outreach and fund-raising with a goal of completion in the next calendar year. Commissioner Eaton outlined the support of various local interest groups who have expressed support for the project. She then requested that the Manchester Heritage Commission lend its official support to the project, which, she said is appropriate to its mission and might give it a more visible profile in the community. This official support will lend credence and gravitas to requests for grants necessary for the project's completion. The City Of Manchester would act as the fiscal agent for the fund-raising effort.

Mary Ann Skwierz of Saint Hedwig's Parish and the Pulaski Day Committee then gave a presentation on the history of the Pulaski Day celebration, which is commemorated annually on October 11th. She expressed her concern about the monument, and her support for the effort to restore it, as well as her support for the Commission. Bill Zygadlo of the Polish National Cathedral added his support, and that of the church, to the effort. Commissioner Eaton then outlined the motivation for this effort, and the additional support it can expect from other elements of the community, including the Parks Department, which doesn't have the resources at this time to accomplish such a project on its own. She described "the Manchester Way" of traditionally accomplishing large projects by assembling public and private partnerships. She described the impression that Manchester and its monuments and statues made on the visiting consultants from Daedalus, who are well-known and well-respected nationally.
There followed a discussion of the role of the Heritage Commission according to the appropriate statutes, and the possible expansion of its role in the future. The discussion included the details of the appropriate financial arrangements. The chairman expressed his support for this effort, and outlined the usefulness that the commission could add. He commended Commissioners Howard and Eaton for their abilities and accomplishments.

The chairman asked for a motion that the Manchester Heritage Commission support the effort to restore the Pulaski monument with its full authority, and to investigate appropriate language and mechanism to most effectively provide that support. Commissioner Duffy made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan, and approved unanimously.

The meeting conclude with the ladies from Saint Hedwig's taking orders for home made pierogis to be delivered at the parish festival, several weeks hence. The meeting was adjourned without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Duffy II, Clerk